

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 The present invention provides a method for reducing power consumption in a satellite downlink transmitter (100).

 The method includes the steps of defining a frame structure for use on a downlink, and further defining a traffic body (218, 220, 222) and an overhead body (212, 214, 216) in the frame structure (202, 204, 206). The method further
10 determines the amount of time required to transmit the traffic body ("the traffic transmit time") and the amount of time required to transmit the overhead body ("the overhead transmit time"). Subsequently, the method activates a transmitter for the overhead transmit time to transmit the
15 overhead body (212, 214, 216) including the synchronization information. Thus, a ground station may acquire synchronization and lock onto the downlink. The method then, however, selectively deactivates the transmitter for the traffic transmit time. The method thereby transmits the
20 overhead body (212, 214, 216) in every frame (202, 204, 206), but may save power by not transmitting the traffic body (218, 220, 222) of the frame.